

IN THE CLAIMS

5           1. A simple network management protocol (SNMP) network power control system, comprising:

          a host system with a SNMP network manager and providing for a TCP/IP communication connection and able to issue GET and SET commands;

10           a plurality of intelligent power modules (IPM's) connected to an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) and providing at least one of power-on sensing, load sensing and power cycling on/off, and further including a "tickle" signal output that responds to a first SET command issued by a  
15   system administrator and the host system;

          a plurality of network appliances connected to receive operating power from a corresponding one of said IPMs such that each IPM may cycle operating power on/off in response to a second SET command issued by a system  
20   administrator and the host system; and

          a power manager with a SNMP agent connected to said TCP/IP communication connection and able to individually control each IPM according to receipt of said GET and SET commands;

25           wherein a user may confirm that a particular intelligent power module will respond to a command to shut-off power with said first SET command before said second SET command is issued to actually shut off operating power to a particular one of the network appliances.

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2. The power control system of claim 1, wherein:  
each of the plurality of IPMs includes a  
microprocessor that has a first output port to issue said  
"tickle" signal and a second output port to control said  
5 operating power to an associated network appliance.

3. The power control system of claim 2, wherein:  
said "tickle" signal is a dry-contact relay output  
signal that controls the logic status of a serial interface  
10 included in said associated network appliance.

4. The power control system of claim 2, wherein:  
said "tickle" signal is tested while said  
associated network appliance is in a normal operating mode by  
15 issuing said first SET command.

5. The power control system of claim 2, wherein:  
said second SET command is issued when said  
associated network appliance is in an abnormal operating mode  
20 and cannot respond to said "tickle" signal.